

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 5-7, 9-11 and 13-15 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 6, 10 and 14 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claims 6, 10 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-3 remain withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have cancelled the withdrawn claims in order to further the prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for these claims.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112

Claims 12-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner pointed out that the word "insert" should have been "inert" in claims 12 and 14. This has now been corrected.

Application No. 10/600,539
Amendment dated December 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 24, 2005

4448-170pus1
Docket No.: 0941-0751P

Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Brooks (U.S. Patent 6,003,674). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

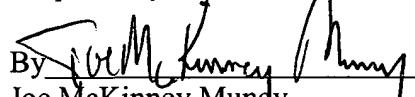
By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have rewritten claims 6, 10 and 14 in independent form and changed the dependency of the remaining claims to depend therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection is now rendered moot.

Conclusion

Due to the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patent relied on by the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

Dated: December 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Mundy
Registration No.: 32,334
WJ BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant